

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: ,/A

TAGS: ELAB, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND RELATED SYSTEMS

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS REQUESTS

EMBASSY ASSISTANCE CONCERNING VARIOUS ITALIAN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND RELATED SYSTEMS, FOR EXAMPLE, SUPPLEMENTS FOR DEPENDENTS OF UNEMPLOYED WORKERS, FAMILY ALLOWANCES, AND SPECIALIZED UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION SCHEMES. BLS REQUESTS BENEFITS PAYABLE UNDER EACH SYSTEM FOR A SINGLE WORKER AND A MARRIED MAN WITH TWO CHILDREN AS OF MID 1975.

END SUMMARY.

1. THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS (BLS) OF THE US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR IS PREPARING A REPORT ON BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN MAJOR INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES AND REQUEST EMBASSY ASSISTANCE CONCERNING ITALIAN UNEMPLOYMENT AND FAMILY ALLOWANCE BENEFITS AS OF MID-1975, THE REFERENCE DATE FOR THE REPORT. THEY WOULD ALSO WANT TO KNOW ABOUT ANY CHANGES SINCE THAT DATE. BLS WOULD APPRECIATE ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. BLS UNDERSTANDS THAT AT MID-1975, FLAT RATE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS WERE 800 LIRE A DAY, PAYABLE FOR SEVEN DAYS A WEEK. ARE DEPENDENTS SUPPLEMENTS ALSO PAYABLE? IF SO, WHAT ARE THE FLAT RATE SUPPLEMENTS PAID TO A MARRIED MAN WITH TWO CHILDREN?

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PAGE 02 STATE 029887

ARE THESE SUPPLEMENTS PAYABLE IN ADDITION TO THE FAMILY ALLOW-

ANCE OF 8,060 LIRE A MONTH FOR EACH CHILD AND FOR SPOUSE?

3. SPECIAL SCHEMES IN AGRICULTURE, CONSTRUCTION, AND INDUSTRY PROVIDE EARNINGS RELATED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS. ARE THESE BENEFITS COLLECTED IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE FLAT RATE BENEFITS? IN THE INDUSTRY SECTOR, IS THE MAXIMUM DURATION OF THE EARNINGS RELATED BENEFITS 180 DAYS, SUBJECT TO AN EXTENSION OF 60 DAYS BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOR? IS THERE A WAITING PERIOD BEFORE THESE BENEFITS ARE PAYABLE? ARE BENEFITS TWO-THIRDS OF GROSS SALARY IN THE INDUSTRY SECTOR?

4. BLS WOULD LIKE TO CLARIFY THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ABOVE EARNINGS RELATED BENEFITS AND THE SYSTEM OF SHORT-TIME WORK BENEFITS PAID BY THE "CASSA D'INTEGRAZIONE GUADAGNI." THE LATTER SYSTEM WAS EXPANDED IN 1975 TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF HOURS FOR WHICH BENEFITS COULD BE CLAIMED TO 40 HOURS A WEEK AND AVERAGE BENEFITS WERE RAISED TO COVER 80 PERCENT OF GROSS EARNINGS. THE SYSTEM APPLIES TO WORKERS IN INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION. IS IT CORRECT THAT AN ELIGIBLE WORKER ON TEMPORARY LAYOFF WOULD RECEIVE THESE SHORT-TIME BENEFITS, WHILE A WORKER ON PERMANENT LAYOFF WOULD RECEIVE THE EARNINGS RELATED SUPPLEMENTS? THUS, AN INDUSTRIAL WORKER ON TEMPORARY LAYOFF (SHORT-TIME) RECEIVES 80 PER CENT OF FORMER EARNINGS; A SIMILAR WORKER ON PERMANENT LAYOFF, RECEIVES 67 PERCENT OF EARNINGS(PLUS FLAT RATE BENEFITS?).

5. ARE ALL OF THE AFOREMENTIONED BENEFITS (FLAT RATE, EARNINGS RELATED, AND SHORT-TIME) SUBJECT TO INCOME TAX? IF SO, ARE THE TAXES TAKEN OUT AT THE TIME THE BENEFITS ARE RECEIVED?

6 ARE WORKERS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS IN ITALY COVERED FOR HEALTH CARE? DOES THE GOVERNMENT PAY THE INSURED PERSONS HEALTH CARE PREMIUMS WHILE HE IS UNEMPLOYED?

7. WHEN ITALIAN WORKERS RECEIVE SEVERANCE PAY UNDER COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS, CAN THE SEVERANCE PAY BE COLLECTED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH FULL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OR DO THEY REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS PAYABLE? SISCO

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